



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE: PATENT APPLICATION of

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VOGEL ET AL.

MAR 20 2003

Group Art Unit: 1754

Application Serial No.: 09/645,554

GROUP 1700

Examiner: HENDRICKSON, S.L.

Filed: August 25, 2000

Title: FURNACE CARBON BLACK, PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION AND USE THEREOF

March 17, 2003

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Group Art Unit 1754
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the final official action dated November 29, 2002, wherein the pending claims were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the following amendments and remarks.

I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

C1
1. (Twice Amended) A furnace carbon black, having a hydrogen content of greater than 4200 ppm, determined by CHN analysis, and a peak integral ratio, determined by inelastic neutron scattering, of non-conjugated hydrogen atoms (1250 cm^{-1} – 2000 cm^{-1}) to aromatic and graphitic hydrogen atoms (1000 cm^{-1} – 1250 cm^{-1} and 750 cm^{-1} – 1000 cm^{-1}) of from 1.17 to 1.22.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

C2
6. (Amended) An electrocatalyst comprising a furnace carbon black, having a hydrogen content of greater than 4200 ppm, determined by CHN analysis, and a peak integral ratio, determined by inelastic neutron scattering, of non-conjugated hydrogen atoms (1250 cm^{-1} –